

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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P R 091116Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2379

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

CINCUSAFE

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS ANKARA 1066

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MASS, TU, US

SUBJECT: DEFENSE BUDGET DEBATE

DURING THE SENATE DEBATE FEBRUARY 5 ON THE BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, THE SUBJECTS OF GOT-NATO RELATIONS AND U.S.-TURKISH DEFENSE RELATIONS WERE AIRED BY SEVERAL SPEAKERS:

A. MINDEFENSE MELEN STATED THAT "NATO AND CENTO RETAIN THE SAME VALUE TODAY AS AT THE TIME OF THEIR FOUNDATION," BUT THE US EMBARGO HAD BEEN A "WRONG DECISION" THAT WAS "PREJUDICIAL TO NATO." HE REFUTED CHARGES THAT THE U.S. INSTALLATIONS SERVED ONLY U.S. DEFENSE INTERESTS: "THESE BASES ARE USEFUL TO TURKISH DEFENSE IN THE SAME PROPORTION AS THEY ARE USEFUL TO THE NATO ALLIANCE SYSTEM,"
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HE SAID. MELEN REFERRED TO THE "NEW PRINCIPLES" UNDER

DISCUSSION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME WAS NOT KNOWN, "EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS MOST SUITABLE TO THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES." MELEN COMPLAINED THAT TURKEY WAS NOW RECEIVING MILITARY AID ONLY FROM GERMANY, WHEREAS IN THE PAST THE U.S., CANADA AND ITALY HAD ALSO CONTRIBUTED. HE SAID, "BECAUSE IT IS VERY EXPENSIVE TO BUY ARMS FROM THE U.S. FOR CASH, WE ARE LOOKING FOR AND FINDING NEW MARKETS."

B. THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY DEFENSE SPOKESMAN, SENATOR MUHSIN BATUR (FORMER AIR FORCE CHIEF), STATED THAT THE RPP APPROVED IN GENERAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POST-EMBARGO POLICY TOWARD THE U.S., BUT CRITICIZED THE DECISION TO "CONCEAL" THAT RENT FOR THE BASES HAD BEEN DEMANDED BY THE GOT AND HAD BEEN "CHALLENGED" BY THE U.S. BATUR STATED THAT RENT WAS NOT "COMPATIBLE WITH OUR SOVEREIGNTY OR WITH THE CONCEPT OF ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY. THE BASES MUST NOT BE REACTIVATED UNLESS THE U.S. DROPS THE EMBARGO IDEA AND GUARANTEES MILITARY AID FOR THREE OR FIVE YEARS."

C. JUSTICE PARTY SPOKESMAN KAMRAN INAN STATED THAT RENT FOR THE BASES WAS "OUT OF THE QUESTION." HE SAID THAT "IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS" WERE TAKING PLACE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. INAN ALSO ECHOED BATUR'S SENTIMENT THAT "COMMON DENOMINATORS" IN FOREIGN POLICY HAD TO BE AGREED ON WITH THE RPP SO THAT DIFFERENCES IN POLICIES BETWEEN VARIOUS TURKISH GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE REDUCED TO DIFFERENCES OF METHOD.

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